

CLAIMS:

1. A method of filtering a collection (COL) of samples (S_i), characterized in that the method comprises the steps of:
- distinguishing (DIS) between valid samples (S_i^+) and non-valid samples (S_i^-) on the basis of auxiliary data (AUX); and
 - 5 - deriving (DER) filtered samples (S_o), which are associated with the valid samples (S_i^+), exclusively on the basis of the valid samples (S_i^+).
2. A method of filtering as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the method comprises the step of:
- deriving a filtered sample from a set of filter input values which is fixed in size; each filter input value being associated with a specific sample such that, if the sample is valid, the value of the sample is taken as the filter input value whereas, if the sample is not valid, a padding value is taken as the filter input value, the padding value being derived from at least one valid sample.
3. A method of filtering as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the method comprises the steps of:
- forming a cluster of samples;
 - calculating a padding value on the basis of valid samples in the cluster;
 - 20 - forming a set of filter values by taking, for each valid sample, the value of that sample and by taking the padding value for each non-valid sample;
 - deriving a filtered sample from the cluster of filter input values.
4. A filter arrangement (FAR) for filtering a collection of samples (S_i),
- 25 characterized in that the filter arrangement comprises:
- an input circuit for distinguishing between valid samples (S_i^+) and non-valid samples (S_i^-) on the basis of auxiliary data (AUX); and
 - a filtering circuit for deriving filtered samples (S_o), which are associated with

00503967-021400

Int A ~~the valid samples (Si+), exclusively on the basis of the valid samples (Si+).~~

5. A computer program product for a filter arrangement, the computer program product being characterized in that it comprises a set of instructions which, when loaded into the filter arrangement, causes the filter arrangement to carry out the method as claimed in claim 1.

09503967.021400
004720" 960560